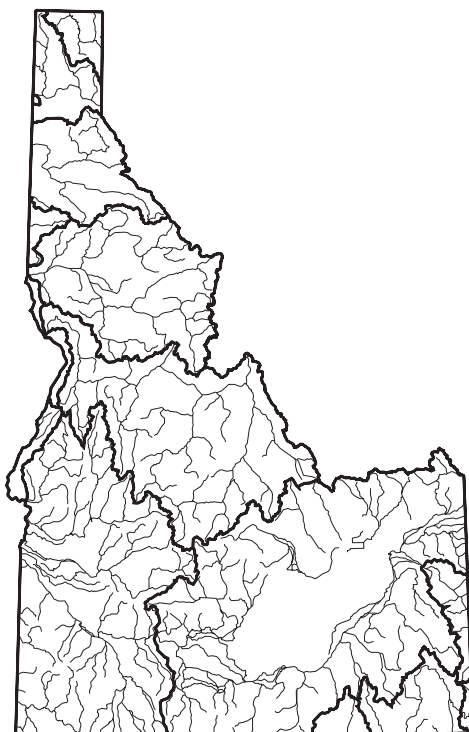


Idaho

— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)



For information about water quality in Idaho, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Idaho did not provide this information for the 1996 report.

Ground Water Quality

The Idaho Statewide Ground Water Quality Monitoring Program samples about 800 wells every two years. This program, along with regional monitoring projects and data from public drinking water

wells, indicated that nitrates, solvents, and pesticides are the most prevalent contaminants in ground water. Major sources of ground water contamination include landfills, fertilizer and pesticide application, animal feedlots, underground storage tanks, septic systems, and industrial facilities.

The Idaho Legislature adopted the Ground Water Quality Plan in 1992. The plan contains six major policy areas directing State agencies and entities in the protection of ground water quality. These six policy areas cover protection, prevention, public education, government interaction, monitoring, and remediation. Ground water quality protection programs in Idaho address underground injection, wastewater land application, underground storage tanks, pesticide use, mining, industrial facilities, remediation, sewage disposal, solid waste, inter-agency coordination, ground water quality monitoring, pollution prevention, and wellhead protection.

Programs to Restore Water Quality







EPA has primary responsibility for issuing NPDES permits in Idaho. Idaho's DEQ is concerned that EPA is not issuing permits for minor point source dischargers, and inspections of permitted and unpermitted dischargers are rare. Neither DEQ or EPA have sufficient staff to conduct compliance inspections. Without

oversight, there are no assurances that these facilities are being properly operated and meet water quality standards.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

DEQ operates a water quality monitoring program that measures biological, physical, and chemical parameters. Data collection varies in intensity, from desktop reviews of existing data (Basic or Level I), through qualitative surveys and inventories that cannot be repeated with confidence (Reconnaissance or Level II), to quantitative measurements that can be repeated and yield data suitable for statistical analysis (Intensive or Level III). The program includes monitoring of trends, beneficial uses, and BMP effectiveness.

Individual Use Support in Idaho

Designated Use	Percent				
	Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Poor (Not Attainable)
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 115,595)^a					
 Total Miles Surveyed	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 700,000)					
 Total Acres Surveyed	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

- Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^aIncludes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.